The invention claimed is:

1   **1.** A method of managing signal-processing resources of a

2   multimedia platform that is designed for applying signal-processing

3   operations to multimedia signals, comprising:

4   defining multimedia functions each capable of monitoring the

5   operation of a set of multimedia platform signal-processing resources,

6   putting them in contact, and adapting the contents of said signal-

7   processing resource set depending on the multimedia signal to be

8   processed; and

9   using said multimedia functions to apply said signal-

10   processing operations to said multimedia signals.

1   **2.** The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   prior to applying any signal-processing operations to

3   multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this

4   group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia

5   signals in a given application.

1   **3.** The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   defining multimedia functions comprises

3   assembling basic functions that are configured for using the

4   resources that are available on the multimedia platform.

1   **4.** The method of claim 3 wherein:

2   prior to applying any signal-processing operations to

3   multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this

4   group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia

5   signals in a given application.

1   **5.** The method of claim 3 wherein:

2   each signal-processing resource of the multimedia platform

3   belongs to a type of resource, and

4   the signal-processing resources of a same type are

5   controlled by the sam\ontrol instructions.

1   **6.** The method of claim 5 wherein:

2   prior to applying any signal-processing operations to

3   multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this

4   group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia

5   signals in a given application.

1   **7.** The method of claim 3, wherein:

2   the resources that are available on the multimedia platform

3   are declared to a negotiation device of the multimedia platform when they

4   are powered-on for a first time.

1   **8.** The method of claim 7 wherein:

2   prior to applying any signal-processing operations to

3   multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this

4   group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia

5   signals in a given application.

1   **9.** The method of claim 7 wherein:

2   each signal-processing resource of the multimedia platform

3   belongs to a type of resource, and

4   the signal-processing resources of a same type are

5   controlled by the same control instructions.

1   **10.** The method of claim 9 wherein:

2   prior to applying any signal-processing operations to

3   multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this

4   group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia

5   signals in a given application.

1   **11**. An apparatus for managing signal-processing resources

2   of a multimedia platform that is designed for applying signal-processing

3   operations to multimedia signals, comprising:

4   means for defining multimedia functions each capable of

5   monitoring the operation of a set of multimedia platform signal-processing

6   resources, putting them in contact, and adapting the contents of said

7   signal-processing resource set depending on the multimedia signal to be

8   processed; and

9   means for using said multimedia functions to apply said

10   signal-processing operations to said multimedia signals.

1   **12.** A multimedia platform for defining multimedia functions

2   each capable of monitoring the operation of a set of multimedia platform

3   signal-processing resources, putting them in contact, adapting the

4   contents of said signal-processing resource set depending on the

5   multimedia signal to be processed, and using said multimedia functions to

6   apply said signal-processing operations to said multimedia signals, and

7   including a plurality of signal-processing resources, comprising:

8   a resource interface (3) wherein operations are defined that

9   make it possible to control said signal-processing resources;

10   a resource management unit (2) for dynamically allocating

11   signal-processing resources depending on the signal-processing operation

12   to be carried out and managing exchanges among signal-processing

13   resources;

14   an application interface (5) wherein said multimedia

15   functions are defined; and

16   an application unit (4) having an application program for

17   applying said multimedia functions.